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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6212

BILL NUMBER: SB 129

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 8, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: ISTEP.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Waterman

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill replaces the ISTEP test program with the Measures of Academic Progress assessment program. It repeals the definition of "ISTEP program". It makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to contract with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to develop a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program which would replace the ISTEP. The Department is to continue using the ISTEP until the MAP assessment program becomes available.

The cost to replace the ISTEP test program with the MAP assessment program is currently indeterminable and would depend on future contractual arrangements between the DOE and the NWEA. According to the Department, the ISTEP contract for Grades 3 to 8 costs a little less than \$25 M annually to administer. Funds currently earmarked for ISTEP examination development and administration could be used as a funding source for the MAP. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Background: NWEA and MAP- The NWEA was founded in 1974 and currently has about 4,000 partnering school districts participating in the MAP assessment program. MAP is a computerized measurement system designed to offer detailed feedback on student progress. A complete set of assessments is available, each aligned to national and state curricula and standards. The association reports that MAP assessments are offered in Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. The assessment tests can be given up to four times per school year.

In one school district in California, the annual cost was reported to be approximately \$15 per student for tests in language usage, reading, and mathematics. In 2010, the NWEA completed a project to connect the scale of the ISTEP in mathematics, reading, and language with that used by the NWEA.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: As MAP is a computer-based system, school corporations may have to update their computer hardware to meet MAP's system requirements. Corporations would also have to dedicate additional technical and administrative personnel to MAP installation and operation. This may represent an additional workload and/or expenditure on each corporation outside of its routine administrative functions, and existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Ashley Gibson, Legislative Director, Department of Education, 317-232-6618; NWEA Website: www.nwea.org; San Diego Union-Tribune, "Following the MAP: Poway Unified grade-schoolers use assessment tests to measure progress and set goals", March 15, 2009.

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